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### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

#### Status of the Claims

Claims 1-15 and 17-23 are pending in the current application. Claims 24-33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and will be pursued in a continuing application. As the Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action that claims 1-15 and 17-23 are allowed, it is believed that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are therefore respectfully requested.

#### Consideration Of Previously Submitted Information Disclosure Statement

As noted in Applicants' Amendments mailed December 11, 2002 and June 25, 2003, an initialed copy of the PTO Form 1449 that was submitted with **Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement filed April 27, 1999** has not been returned to Applicants' representative with the Office Action. Accordingly, it is requested that an initialed copy of the Form 1449 be forwarded to the undersigned. In order to facilitate review of the references by the Examiner, a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement and the Form 1449 were provided with the aforementioned Amendments and are also attached hereto. Copies of the cited references were provided at the time of filing the original Information Disclosure Statement, and, therefore, no additional copies of the references are submitted herewith. Applicants will be pleased to provide additional copies of the references upon the Examiner's request if it proves difficult to locate the original references.

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### CONCLUSIONS

It is believed that all the rejections have been obviated or overcome and the claims are in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited. If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject Application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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#### CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (703) 872-9307 on the date shown below.

*Rebecca Kerney*  
Rebecca Kerney

8/27/03  
Date